

BOSTON CITY COUNCIL



1910-2009
SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City Council wishes to thank our interns, Jack Applebaum from Career Explorations, and Gabrielle Jena- Pierre for their work in assisting with the compilation of the selected accomplishments of the City Council, as a unicameral body, from 1910 to present. The City Council also wishes to recognize the work of Chelsea Harris, Council Assistant Budget Director, in review of the interns' work and completion of several missing or incomplete years.

This compilation includes information gathered by Kelli Connors and Sarah Izzi, Suffolk University students in Professor Bob Allison's class.

NOTE

The compilation below is not a complete account of all legislation reviewed or approved by the Council or the hearing held, but some highlights based on a review of the Council Minutes.

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1910-1919

1910

- The City Council, as a unicameral body, met for the first time on February 7, 1910. The amended City Charter of 1909 abolished the Board of Aldermen and Common Council and the City Council was established, consisting of nine members. The Council was established as an at large non-partisan body. The City Council met in the Council Chamber of what is now “Old City Hall” on School Street.
- Proposition to build Franklin Park Zoo and aquarium is passed. The city allocates \$5,000 to the project. The Zoo is founded in 1913 and is considered one of the oldest Zoos in the U.S.

1911

- The Municipal Athletic Association is established by the City. Is the first of its kind in the U.S. It creates various sporting contests and winter games in Boston.
- Plans to extended Arlington Street and to build Park square are approved

1912

- Former Alderman James Michael Curley ends his City Council term.
- Boston Elevated Railway workers strike, Mayor John Fitzgerald and the City Council push for a resolution of the strike, which ended April 19.
- Program to celebrate/observe Bunker Hill is passed. A Committee is also established for that purpose
- Evacuation day order to be a half-holiday without loss of pay
- City Council issues a loan for Norfolk st. to be completed
- Monument for Wendell Phillips is financed
- Five-cent public car fare to Hyde park
- Order is passed for Veterans in police and fire departments to have a leave of absence on memorial day
- City council funds building on deer island to treat drug users
- Funding for building a bandstand on Boston common is passed

1913

- City council orders gas and electric commissioners to take actions that ensure that gas and electricity are at prices that make them accessible to all in the city
- City council loans \$3.2M to the rapid transit project that will enable citizens to travel quickly between Dorchester and East Boston
- City council passes a resolution on the Constitution that allows the city to buy and sell coal and ice to inhabitants
- Electric street lamps substituted for gas ones (?)
- City council orders high schools to teach Spanish as an elective
- Soldiers with needy cases are given \$200 for immediate relief
- Gives loan to create highway

1914

- Mayor James Michael Curley begins the first of four non-consecutive terms, 1914-1917. He defeated Council President Thomas J. Kenny.
- Ordinance passed establishing City Planning Board, with requirement that one member be a woman.
- The circle formed by the junction of Huntington ave., Tremont and Francis streets is named Brigham circle
- City hall is voted to be closed on December 26

1915

- City council loans \$10,000 to the publishing of ward maps

1916

- City planning board was established and said to consist of 7 members and the mayor and council president
- Order to have Faneuil Hall renovated, fireproofed, and architecturally restored is passed
- Order to build numerous sidewalks on many streets throughout the city is passed
- New site to art commission for Lincoln Statue is proposed
- Workmen's Compensation Act supported with an agreement for the payment of workers' salaries

1917

- Order to build concrete walks built in Boston Common
- City council approves street improvements made on North Beacon, Faneuil, Chelsea, and Morton streets
- City council allots money for the completion of West Department of City Hospital
- Transfer of funds is authorized to allow for a Central Library addition
- Order is passed for the building of a convenience station in the Boston Common
- Sidewalks built along numerous streets in the city
- Order is passed for the building of the foundation of the Robert Burns Statue
- Orders are passed for the building of Ripley Playground, Winthrop Playground, and Eagle Hill Playground

1918

- Ordered that the mayor consider a pay raise for all police patrol men for 1919
- Establishes Transportation Department

1919

- Order passed for post quarters of the American Legion in the City Of Boston
- Tablet marking the birthplace of Wendell Phillips on Essex Street is ordered to be repaired
- Council endorsed the campaign for the raising of salaries of schoolteachers
- Funds transferred for the maintenance and improvements of commons and parks
- Allows for Flagpole to be erected in Boston public garden (for 26th division parade)
- Numerous playgrounds are ordered to be improved, renovated, or altered

1920-1929

1920

- Order passed for the creation of a burial lot for World War veterans
- Land at the junction of Audubon road, Riverway and Avenue Louis Pasteur renamed Higginson circle in honor of Major Henry Lee Higginson. Order is also passed for the erection of a monument.
- \$2,000 appropriated for the drawings and preparations of a memorial for Boston Service Men

1921

- Order for motorists to be licensed is passed
- Only citizens to work in public works department
- Order to have women registered to vote is passed
- City council allows the Voters to elect judges
- Merry-go-round is allowed to be licensed
- Building a lighting plant bill is passed
- Speed limit set on Harvard bridge
- Order to protect school children passed

1922

- James Michael Curley elected again as mayor, served until 1925. His election began a trend of Irish-American mayors that lasted until Thomas M. Menino in 1993.
- Books in schools are regulated and some are restricted
- Webster's dictionary pulled out of schools

1923

- City Council gives \$10,000 towards relief for the Japanese disaster
- Official song for the City of Boston (Dear old Boston) is approved
- Street signs are put up
- Trucks prohibited from driving in certain streets
- Children allowed to play golf at Franklin Park for free
- One man cars are ordered to be removed
- Theater tickets are to be regulated

1924

- Charter is once again amended, Council returns to 22 member, ward based election system, with greater emphasis on neighborhood representation. Ward boundaries re-drawn to present day boundaries.
- A Municipal University is ordered to be built

1925

- Allows jitney (buses) to work like tour vehicles
- City council gives \$25,000 to cover Beach St. disaster
- The new research lab in Boston city hospital is funded
- Taxi cab employees are issued permits to carry firearms
- Telephone rates are regulated and installed

1926 * page 23-24 is ripped,*

- Buses are made to wait at Forest hills instead of the Arborway
- Married women are allowed to work
- Evacuation day is made into a school holiday
- Firefighter uniforms are changed
- Handball courts are allowed to be made in playgrounds
- Elevators in city hall
- A “white way” lighting system is installed from beacon to Columbus ave.
- Meal periods for fireman
- State aid for soldiers

1927 * pg 21-22 is damaged*

- fire department was greatly appreciated this year...
- Steam railroads are allowed to be made electric
- People who handle food are ordered to have medical examinations
- Not allowed to listen in on phone conversations

1928

- Plans to develop Boston airport are passed
- Passed legislation involved installing devices in box to insure ring of gong when hook is pulled
- Books on traffic advisory and streets are printed
- Water is allowed to be shut off due to non-payment

1929

- Special fare for children using the railway
- Automatic traffic signal systems installed
- Unemployed men required to register
- Sports allowed to be played on Sunday (?)
- Elimination of installation and service telephone charges

1930-1939

1930

- Curley elected again as mayor – served until 1933.
- Order passed to build baseball diamonds in Dorchester Town Field, Ashmont playground, Mary Hemenway playground, Neponset playground, and Dorchester park
- Flood lights for night play and concrete bleachers installed at Franklin Field tennis courts
- Numerous baseball diamonds and tennis courts built in various parks around the city
- Money appropriated for numerous updates and improvements for the World War Memorial Park in East Boston
- Ordered that suitable quarters be provided in City Hall Annex for the statistics department and “City Record.”
- Money appropriated for the repaving and repairs of many streets throughout the city, in addition to the construction of sidewalks
- Portable bandstand ordered for construction
- Money appropriated for the building of a tercentenary memorial gateway

1931

- Order was passed to support an amendment to the constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the implementation of a graduated income tax, so the greater tax burden was on those making more money
- Ordered that advisability of five day work week for city employees be studied and put into effect
- Resolution passed inviting the Democratic National Committee to hold the 1932 Democratic National Convention in the City Of Boston (eventually held in Chicago)
- Order passed for the renaming of Governor Square to Kenmore Square
- Numerous parks updated and improved
- Money appropriated for the paving, resurfacing, or lighting of many city streets, in addition to the building of sidewalks
- Money appropriated for improvements and additions to existing schools and the construction of new schools throughout the city
- Many automatic traffic signals installed throughout the city

1932

- Numerous parks and playgrounds updated, renovated, improved, or built
- Many streets paved, lit, resurfaced, and sidewalked
- City gave large loans as temporary loans in anticipation of taxes to help ease strength of the depression

1933

- Ordinance concerning the Weights and Measurers Department – allowing for the hiring of sixteen deputy sealers

1934

- James Michael Curley elected to only term as Governor of Massachusetts.
- Ordered that teachers and pupils in city schools are required to say the pledge of allegiance at least once a week during the school year
- Ordered that city employees are granted leave of absence without loss of pay on Jewish holidays
- “Share the work” system implemented so that no worthy city employee would be discharged until all possibilities of work in the system were examined and exhausted
- Council ordered for the implementation and maintenance of numerous federal relief programs, such as the E.R.A., C.W.A., and P.W.A, H.O.L.C., etc. The council also aided in the regulation of these programs making sure they were implemented fairly and reached as many people as possible
- Order enacted for the appropriation of \$1,800,000 for the demolition of the old and building of the new city hall
- Order passed to paint pedestrian lanes on roads white
- Numerous streets and squares improved

1935

- Ordered that the supply department will purchase American-made goods as opposed to foreign-made goods if sold at the same price
- Resolution passed to support any legislation that would immediately provide World War veterans with their bonus payments
- Order passed to invite Father Coughlin to come speak as guest at council meeting
- Order passed to support the minimum wage payment by contractors to workers of 50 cents per hour and to ensure that the minimum wage is in fact enforced
- Numerous improvements and additions to various parks and playgrounds around the city
- Legislation prepared and introduced for the elimination of a poll tax
- Numerous infrastructural developments resulting from the city council’s support of federal aid programs, such as the P.W.A
- Board of Public Works established
- Numerous streets, squares, and circles, built, paved, improved, or renamed

1936

- Councillor Richard D. Gleason dies. His sister, Mildred M. Harris, is elected to fill his seat, Roxbury-South End, effective 1937. She is the first woman elected to City Council and served until 1939.
- Order passed to establish transatlantic air terminal at East Boston airport
- Order passed to not purchase Japanese made goods for the city
- Order passed to limit the number of students in primary and elementary school classes to 25
- \$1,000,000 loaned by city council to various public welfare projects
- Various parks updated, improved, and named
- Resolution passed favoring a civil service requirement for superintendent and deputy superintendent of police
- Improvements made on various sidewalks throughout the city
- Numerous streets laid-out, named, and improved
- Order passed to teach all high school pupils how to operate a typewriter

1937

- Resolution passed favoring having the 1940 democratic convention brought to Boston (eventually held in Chicago)
- Order passed diverting the proceeds of the gasoline tax for two years from road building to public welfare purposes
- Resolutions ordered and sent to the Congressmen from Massachusetts opposing the Palestine Partition Plan
- Numerous parks, playgrounds, and beaches improved, updated, and renovated
- Resolution passed disapproving the construction of a planetarium financed by the income from the George Robert White Fund
- Numerous streets, squares, parkways, and circles built, improved, or renovated

1938

- Order passed for the use of Boston's share of Green Estate taxes for cancer hospital
- Order passed to consider the advisability of establishing municipal health insurance for citizens of Boston in which they have no obligation to the city
- Multiple playgrounds updated and renovated
- Order passed proposing the curtailment of state W.P.A programs
- Numerous streets, squares, and circles improved, named, and/or updated
- Automatic traffic signals implemented in a number of locations in the city
- Order passed for the consideration of implementing legislation to underground live wires in the city
- Order passed to suspend the practice of shutting off water during the Christmas holidays

1939

- Resolution passed favoring legislation before United States Congress for the erection of a suitable statue to Commodore John Barry and for the presentation to the Republic of Eire, Commodore Barry's hometown
- Resolution passed favoring creation of a division of citizenship within the Department of Education as recommended by the house of representatives
- Updates, improvements, and renovations to a number of city parks
- Order passed to invite the 1940 Republican National Convention to be held in Boston (eventually held in Philadelphia)
- Numerous streets, squares, and circles improved and named
- Order passed to build a youth center in Franklin Park under a W.P.A grant

1940-1949

1940

- Order passed for the erection of a permanent marker to be placed on the South Boston Municipal Building, designating the original site for the first school for the blind
- Order passed for the requirement of licenses for the operation of automobile driving schools
- Order passed to provide ambulance facilities in South Boston at Carney Hospital
- Order passed granting a five-day week to all city employees during summer
- Order passed to supply city councilor's quarters with desks, typewriters, filing cabinets, and other necessary equipment
- Order passed to paint crosswalks at the approach to all churches and schools in Ward 10
- Order passed to establish a floating polling place allowing residents doing military service in Boston Harbor to vote at a location outside of their ward
- Numerous improvements to city parks, beaches, and playgrounds
- Numerous streets, circles, and squares improved, renamed, or renovated

1941

- Improvements made to a small number of parks around the city
- Improvements made to many streets, squares, and circles around the city

1942

- Order passed to close city hall on Saturdays in order to save fuel during a time of shortage
- Improvements made to parks around the city
- Order passed requesting the investigation of fire hazards in Boston by the state fire marshal regarding the overcrowding of theatres
- Streets, squares, and circles named and improved

1943

- Order requesting observance of Lincoln's birthday as a state holiday
- Order passed calling for the erection of memorials in each ward bearing the names of living and dead veterans
- Parks and playgrounds updated and improved
- Order passed granting a loan of \$640,000 to public welfare for the benefit of soldiers
- Some streets, squares, and circles improved
- Council passed multiple orders to support the victory garden program, such as requesting the park commissioner to provide water facilities and creating penalties for stealing from gardens

1944

- Council President John E. Kerrigan takes seat as acting mayor, after Maurice Tobin resigns from office to take post as governor in January. Kerrigan had served 11 terms, or 22 years as an at-large councillor previous to this.
- Order passed extending transcontinental airline service to Boston
- Order passed to build a new airport between Boston and Worcester or Boston and Providence
- Resolve passed favoring “GI” Bill of Rights
- Numerous parks updated and improved
- Streets, squares, and circles improved, named, and renamed
- Resolution passed approving the passage of the Veteran’s Bonus Bill
- Order passed requesting the plowing of vacant lots in the city to be used as victory gardens

1945

- Order passed requesting the construction of a hospital for the treatment of cancer patients
- Improvements to parks
- Order passed requiring the supervisions of the sale of poultry and the prosecution of violators of regulation and revocation of license
- Ordered passed for the expenditure of \$1,500 for the hanging of a portrait of FDR in Faneuil Hall
- Streets, circles, and squares improved, named, and renamed

1946

- Order passed requesting the advertisement of Boston as a vacation and convention center
- Resolution accepted opposing further conscription for United States Service
- Resolutions and orders passed favoring and authorizing the building of a garage underneath the Boston Common
- Order passed changing the name of “Harvard Bridge” to “Technology Bridge”
- Order passed requesting the construction of a memorial to the war dead of Jamaica Plain in the Edward Murray Circle in Ward 19
- Order passed requesting Corporation Counsel to draw legislation amending charter to permit overriding of Mayor’s veto by two-thirds vote of City Council
- Improvements and updates to various parks around the city
- Resolution passed favoring erection of a monument or other memorial to General George Patton
- Order passed granting police officers one day off in six
- Order passed requesting an additional increase to recipients of Old Age, Mothers’ Aid, Soldier’s Relief and Welfare
- Numerous improvements to many streets, squares, and circles around the city, as well as the naming and renaming of some
- Numerous orders passed requesting the maintenance and improvement of war memorials and memorials to veterans around the city
- Order passed requesting continuance of victory gardens program

1947

- Order passed favoring the inspection of all planes and equipment before take-off by a government inspector on the air field
- Order passed calling for the cleaning up of bookies in the city
- Resolution passed expressing support of city council for the reduction of the federal income tax in lower income brackets
- Numerous parks updated and improved
- Resolution passed endorsing the employment of physically handicapped individuals in Boston
- Resolution passed opposing the enactment of a sales tax
- Numerous streets, squares, and circles improved, named, and renamed

1948

- Charter is revised significantly.
- Order passed giving preference from the licensing division to blind veterans for newspaper stands
- Orders passed, such as the installation of adequate ventilation and the installation of safety devices, to prevent manhole explosions
- Numerous parks updated and improved around the city
- Order passed to ensure full compensation was being given as aid to dependent children
- Numerous streets, squares, and circles improved, named, and renamed
- Order passed that the Mayor include in his 1949 budget funds to provide hot lunches for children in the lower grades who will come under the new single session arrangement

1949

- Order passed re-establishing the Junior Police
- Loans accepted for the construction of multiple government works buildings
- Order passed to require utility companies to equip manhole covers with safety hinges
- Resolution adopted urging Governor Paul Dever to accept the Pan-American airways proposal as it would establish Logan Airport as a primary airway terminal and it would expand opportunities for employment in the city
- Numerous parks and playgrounds updated and improved
- Order passed requesting that there be hot water facilities in all school buildings
- Numerous streets, squares, and circles improved, updated, named, and renamed (many named in honor of deceased veterans)

1950-1959

1950

- Baseball diamonds in new stadium and reduction of admission fees
- Bean pot adopted as Boston emblem
- Communistic periodicals are ordered to be banned from public newsstands
- Five day week for police allowed
- Flat rate for automobile insurance for state mandated
- Identification system is allowed to be set for children
- Loan given to replace all gas lights
- Boston water ordered to be treated with fluoride
- Ambulances made to carry two-way radios
- pennies and nickels are allowed to be used at parking meters
- Checks given to old age recipients
- Medical assistance for old age recipients
- Committee established to study juvenile delinquency
- Crosswalks and slow signs are painted on streets

1951

- On August 6, Lawrence Banks takes his seat as the first at large African American councillor, after his appeal, because of voting irregularities, to the results of the 1949 election, which he lost to David Sullivan.
- Charter Commission revises City Charter.
- Franklin field not allowed by army personnel or radar activities
- Obligatory washroom and toilet facilities in restaurants

1952

- As a result of charter revisions, the City Council is now made up of nine at large members – as a Plan A version of charter. Councillors took office on the first Monday in January. The Finance Commission believed that the city was better served by councillors with a citywide rather than a neighborhood viewpoint, much more easily obtained through at-large elections. It was a reversal of an amendment made in 1924.
- Gabriel F. Piemonte is elected as the first Italian-American President of the Council. He would serve 16 years as City Councillor 1952-1959, 1962-1963, 1966-1967, 1970-1973. He also ran for mayor in 1963.
- Authorized arena for indoor sports
- Low rent housing are given to members of the armed forces stationed on Boston
- Runs drive for clothing for Korea
- Parking privileges for paraplegic veterans
- Passes order to build a special needs school (“subnormal children”)

1953

- Ordinance passed regulating the taking of shellfish in the City
- Established the Administrative Services Department within the City to include positions such as Purchasing Agent and Supervisor of Personnel
- Ordinance regarding the advertising and notice of public hearing for licenses to operate jitneys modified. New ordinance requires advertising in Boston's daily newspapers 7 days before public hearing

1954

- April 15 is made Red Sox Day
- Established a junior college
- Restricts Film "Five Bridges to Cross"

1955

- Additional compensation for firefighters working certain legal holidays
- Approved code of ethics for publishers of comic books
- Resolve campaign against obscene printed material
- Aid and funding for polio victims and vaccine

1956

- Housing developments for the aged (nursing homes)
- Urban renewal program is given funding

1957

- Ordinance establishing a \$5 fee for a permit to purchase, rent, or lease a firearm in the City of Boston
- Auditorium Commission established to be part of the Parks and Recreation Department
- An Act defining Ice Milk Mix and regulating its manufacture use established. Ordinance fixes fees and establishes procedures for licenses and permits granted in connection with frozen dessert.

1958

- Adequate parking facilities for staff and students in educational institutions
- Transfer land from Fenway to Boston University
- Loans to Building of city hall in Government Ctr.
- Passes bill for State-Boston retirement system
- Requiring issuance of car stickers for Boston residents

1959

- Former City Councillor, Mayor and Governor James Michael Curley dies at the age of 83.
- Order passed requesting a new 50-star American Flag be procured for the Council Chamber to replace the currently displayed 48-star American Flag
- Ordinance passed providing for appointment of Chaplain to City Messenger Department
- Reduction in the loan order for construction of new City Hall from \$20,000,000 to \$19,500,000
- Order passed urging Mayor to extend BHA maintenance employees the same sick leave benefits as are extended to City of Boston employees

1960-1969

1960

- Resolution adopted favoring the rehabilitation of the Boston Common
- Resolution passed favoring the erection of a monument or plaque at the former entrance to Coacoanut Grove where the tragic 1942 disaster occurred
- Improvements of parks around the city
- Resolution adopted favoring the redevelopment under general laws the land around the Prudential Center
- A small number of streets, squares, and circles improved and named
- Order passed calling for the development of adequate parking facilities for visitors of the U.S.S. Constitution, in addition to the adoption of resolution opposing the removal of the ship from Boston Harbor

1961

- Order passed requiring escape hatches in all elevators
- Improvements and updates to fields in the city
- Improvements made to streets, as well as the renaming of some

1962

- Order passed calling for the improvement of lighting in the Boston Common
- Numerous orders and resolutions regarding the new city hall project, such as relocations of families and reports on the area by other government agencies
- Improvements and updates to parks around the city
- Resolution adopted requesting the mayor to wage a strong campaign against rodents in the city and to provide for a program for rodent extermination
- Some streets, squares, and circles improved and named (in honor of deceased veterans)

1963

- Ordinance passed further regulating the steel and iron provisions of the Boston building code
- Ordinance passed declaring the Back Bay Historic District
- Board of Appeal designated and organized
- Ordinance passed amending the Boston Fire Prevention Code relative to investigation and supporting the removal of fire and explosive hazards
- New City Hall site transferred to Government Center Commission
- Order passed appropriating no less than \$10,000 to the construction of the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Memorial Library
- Resolution adopted expressing extreme sympathy of the City Council upon the death of President Kennedy
- Loans taken for the construction of schoolhouses throughout the city
- Small number of streets improved and named

1964

- Plan passed and accepted for the redrawing of ward boundary lines into 36 new wards
- Resolution adopted to make Government Center the new theatre district
- Order passed calling for the placing of a plaque in Faneuil Hall commemorating the late president John F. Kennedy and the fact that Faneuil Hall was the location in which he gave the speech concluding his presidential campaign.
- Ordinance passed forbidding drinking of intoxicating liquor in the streets
- Loan of \$4,500,000 for public welfare purposes
- Streets, circles, and squares improved and updated with the building of sidewalks and addition of streetlamps
- Ordinance passed calling for the installation and maintenance of telephone booths on public ways
- Loan of \$6,455,000 given for the Washington Park Urban Renewal Area and loan of \$8,000,000 given for the Waterfront Urban Renewal Area

1965

- Merger made between hospital department and health department establishing the Health and Hospitals department

1966

- Order passed regulating air traffic over residential areas in the City Of Boston
- Order passed to have all electric power lines constructed underground
- Resolution passed urging legislation to implement the Food Stamp Act
- Money appropriated for improvement of open spaces as well as the Boston Common and Franklin Park
- Loan of \$19,000,000 granted for the construction of schoolhouses
- \$5,401,429 appropriated for welfare

1967

- Thomas I. Atkins, Harvard Law School graduate, former Executive Secretary and President of the Boston Chapter of the NAACP, becomes the first African American elected to Council, 1968-1971. He also served associate trial counsel for the plaintiffs in the school desegregation case – Morgan v. Hennigan.
- Loans approved for the furnishing and equipping of the new City Hall
- Host to 44th annual Congress of Cities to which the City Council of Boston was invited
- Resolution adopted to plan a conference on the regulation of harmful drugs
- Order passed to establish emergency procedures for Logan International Airport
- Ordinance passed to establish Council on Aging
- Some streets, squares, and circles named and renamed
- Loan of \$4,925,000 to Washington Park Urban Renewal Project
- Appropriation of \$5,000,000 for Medicaid

1968

- Resolution adopted for the expansion of the hot lunch program for the elderly to all parts of the city
- Streets, squares, and circles named and renamed

1969

- The New City Hall, located at Government Center is officially completed. After a nationwide design competition, the firm of Kallman, McKinnell and Knowles won the chance to design the building.
- Order passed calling for the establishment of fines and/or prison time as penalty for the purposeful defacement of the American flag
- Order passed calling for the examination of fireworks and their legality under the current laws
- Appropriations made to Parks and Recreation Department for the building of swimming pools
- \$25,000,000 appropriated to the health and hospitals department
- Many streets, squares, and circles named or renamed
- Order passed approving legislation prohibiting the employment of professional strikebreakers

1970-1979

1970

- Authorizing conservation commission
- Requiring Identification of police officers
- Establishing Boston Urban affairs committee

1971

- \$2M towards the construction of City Hall
- Favoring arrests for public drunkenness
- Establishes environmental protection dept.
- Acceptance of state rent control law
- Blockbusting prohibited
- Commission on the physically handicapped (?)
- Lotteries regulated
- Truth in pricing label mandated

1972

- Lawrence DiCara, age 22, becomes the youngest person elected to citywide office when he begins his first of ten years as a City Councillor. (1972-1981) He was President in 1978.
- John Joseph Moakley, future U.S. Representative, serves first two years as City Councillor.
- Animal control commission created
- Animal spay and neuter clinic in department of health established
- Apply revenue sharing funds to reduce tax rate
- Amendment to building code
- Amending Rent control to include federal subsidized buildings
- Repealing boot blacking ordinance by female minors
- Regulation of films not suitable for young persons
- Waiving fee at golf course for people over 65
- Authorization of refuse bags

1973

- Reorganizing and creating office of Supervisor of Labor Relations
- Establishing Boston Bicentennial Commission
- Establishing Boston Urban Homestead Program
- Prohibiting solicitations
- State sanitary code: lead poisoning

1974

- Extending reduced fare privileges on MBTA to handicapped persons
- Recommending establishment of advisory board to aid Vietnam veterans
- Abolishing coordinating council on Drug Abuse
- Providing screening for screen and early detection of cancer in women employees
- Creating department of consumer affairs
- establishing Boston Fire Prevention Code
- establishing Bureau of Rape Prevention
- establishing Vacant land Reclamation Board and providing for use by residents of vacant public lands for agricultural, botanical or recreational purposes
- extending for an additional year the existence of the Model Neighborhood Board and Model City Agency

1975

- creating and advisory board on compensation
- extending management powers of Auditorium Commission
- providing for emergency medical training Boston police and Boston firefighters
- all lawfully registered organizations are allowed to advertise functions
- establishing Model Neighborhood Citizens Participating Organization
- establishing penalties for the violation of rights of city and county employees

1976

- Councillor Louis Day Hicks elected as first female Council President. She previously served on the School Committee, including two years as Chair. She ran for Mayor in 1967. She was elected to Congress and served from 1971-1973. She died in 2003.
- license to carry or possess firearms are amended
- curfew for certain minors established
- prohibiting the driving and parking of motor vehicles on public gardens and parks
- prohibiting smoking in certain areas of public buildings throughout the City of Boston
- providing for the licensing and regulation of abortions and abortion clinics
- regulating the printing of publications
- requiring Civil service employees to be residents of the City of Boston
- requiring stolen motor vehicles to be towed by private companies
- to ban sanitary landfill and other waste disposal operations within city limits

1977

- \$432,900 given to the summer lunch program
- Establishing a commission on neighborhood housing practices
- Regulating the operation and garaging of city automobiles
- Regulating the purchase, renting leasing of city automobiles

1978

- Created the Department on Affairs of the Elderly
- Created the Boston 350 Commission to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the City's founding
- Passed ordinance relating to police officers in attendance at polling locations

1979

- Resolve to combat alcoholism
- Endorsement of "ten-point safety program"
- Abolishing excessive salary increases
- Prohibiting advertising of name of elected officials on city publications
- Prohibiting the displacement of tenants as a result of condominium conversion evictions
- Prohibiting the participation of an elected official or city agency head in any advertising campaigns paid and/or sponsored, in whole, or in part, by the City of Boston, and other restrictive measures, therefore defined during the calendar year when there is a municipal election
- Prohibiting the presenting of entertainment during certain hours in places of assembly and places of business
- Prohibiting the use of funds for the purpose of advertising the resources, advantages, and attractions of the City of Boston and its related agencies, boards, and commissions, in which an elected official of the City of Boston or city agency head appears during the calendar year there is a municipal election
- Promoting the access to public buildings by the physically handicapped
- Installation of fire and smoke detectors
- To provide emergency financial aid to elderly households for purchase of heating fuel during cold seasons

1980-1989

1980

- Resolution adopted to name MBTA station “Downtown Crossing”
- Loan of \$7,000,000 appropriated to the parks department for the updating and improving of parks

1981

- Order passed allowing the Mayor to apply for a grant of \$2,800,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Dorchester Mills Housing Development
- Order passed allowing the Mayor to apply for a grant of \$2,200,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Back of the Hill housing development
- Order passed giving the Boston Redevelopment Authority the ability to take the Boston Garden site as eminent domain, and further that \$15 million be used for the renovation and improvement of the Boston Garden in order to keep the Boston Bruins and Boston Celtics at the garden site and in the city of Boston
- Ordinance passed creating the Department of Inspectional Services

1982

- Order passed for petition for special law creating the environment department
- Council re-organized with 9 District Councilors and 4 At-large Councilors
- Ordinance passed restricting the consumption of liquor in public ways and places and prohibiting procurement of alcoholic beverages by underage drinkers through persuasion or duress

1983

- Former Councillor Ray Flynn becomes the first Mayor elected from South Boston, defeating first African American candidate Mel King. In 1993 he left office when he was appointed United States Ambassador to the Vatican.
- Resolution passed urging the immediate research for a cure for A.I.D.S. The council continued contact with federal and state agencies about research for the disease
- Loan of \$7,000,000 to Boston City Hospital for various projects
- Loan of \$3,500,000 granted for the remodeling, reconstructing, and making of major alterations to city hall
- Loans of millions of dollars made to various Urban Renewal Projects
- James Michael Curley Commission established to carry out specific instructions concerning the anniversary of his death
- Order passed exempting former prisoners of war from the excise tax on motor vehicles

1984

- Robert Travaglini, the state's first Italian American Senate President is elected as a Councillor from District One, East Boston, North End, and Charlestown and served through 1990.
- David Scondras, from District 8, became the first openly gay member of the City Council, serving until 1990.
- Loan of \$3,700,000 for Charlestown Urban Renewal Project
- Order passed requesting the BRA to structure and convene a Dudley Terminal/ Southwest Corridor working committee
- Order passed designating the city council hearing room in the east wing the "Gabriel F. Piemonte Room."
- Order passed to erect a memorial on the grounds of the Boston Public Garden to honor the men and women who served in the Korean War

1985

- Ordinance prohibiting operation of refuse treatment and disposal facilities in City of Boston
- Ordinance prohibiting overfilling of dumpsters on commercial property
- Hearing held regarding plans for renovating Boston Latin School and establishing permanent location for Boston Latin Academy
- Ordinance requiring the use of protective headgear for all persons operating motorized bicycles (mopeds)

1986

- Bruce Bolling, District 7, elected first African American Council President, serving from 1986-1987. He was first elected to Council in 1982. Since 1994, he has served as the Executive Director of MassAlliance, which provides training and assistance to minority and women owned contracting businesses.
- Loan of \$2,595,000 for the Charlestown Urban Renewal project
- Order passed authorizing the acceptance of the Faneuil Hall Historic Restoration and Preservation Trust Fund
- Ordinance passed establishing a Boston Compensation Advisory Board
- \$1,000,000 loaned for the central business district urban renewal project

1987

- Ordinance passed creating a 45-day moratorium on condominium or cooperative eviction notices to low-or moderate-income tenants
- Ordinance passed establishing the Clean City Commission and the Environmental Ordinance Enforcement Commission
- Ordinance passed banning the sale and advertisement of realistic looking toy firearms

1988

- Ordinance regulating the sale and marketing of replica firearms
- Ordinance amending Chapter 19 of Ordinances of 1981 in order require a site cleanliness plan for restaurants and stores in City of Boston
- A new Conservation Commission established
- Ordinance passed protecting housing from damage caused by low ground water table. Ordinance requires Building Commissioner to implement better monitoring strategies
- Ordinance passed concerning fire alarm systems – aimed at decreasing number of fire alarm system malfunctions

1989

- Ordinance passed making unlawful to take reprisal against any individual who testifies before the City Council
- Ordinance concerning the restriction of bicycles, skateboards, roller-skates and similar self-powered vehicles from Downtown Crossing area
- Established Commission on Youth Services
- Amended City Charter to allow for filing of vacancies in office of City Council and School Committee
- Ordinance regarding security in elderly/handicapped housing developments

1990-1999

1990

- Special Law re-organizing School Committee from elected to appointed
- Denial revocation or suspension of licenses for failing to pay city taxes
- Restriction on the use, production, and emission of ozone destructive compounds

1991

- Forbidding certain dangerous weapons in schoolhouses and in City Hall
- Manufacturing, design, and sale of execution machinery is prohibited
- Retired senior volunteer program is funded

1992

- EXTRAide project is given \$5,000
- City council offers housing opportunities for person with AIDS
- Tree planting program is given \$77,000
- Procuring of alcoholic beverages for underage individuals
- Security is required in student housing
- Increasing fines for commercial vehicles that park overnight in residential streets
- Family protection act is enacted

1993

- Former Councillor Thomas M. Menino is elected the first Italian American mayor of Boston. He was first elected to Council in 1984 from District 5. Mayor Menino, as Council President, served as acting mayor after then-mayor Ray Flynn resigned to become the Ambassador to the Vatican.
- Passed Education Reform Act
- Gun buy-back program is made into effect
- Recycling facility is given \$200,000
- Keeping Boston moving safely program is given \$25,000
- Opposed plans to privatize MBTA
- Summer youth employment program given \$2M
- Miller beer boycott supported
- Allowing parental leave in schools
- Half-way houses for sex offenders, substance abuse, alcohol and domestic abuse is supported
- Sales of cigarettes in vending machines prohibited
- Controlling smoking in the workplace

1994

- Councillor James M. Kelly, District 2, began what would be an unprecedented seven years as Council President. He first was elected to Council in 1984. He served on the Council until his death in 2007.
- Beginning in 1994 through 1997, the City Council had four women elected to the Council at the same time – Maura Hennigan (since 1981), Peggy Davis Mullen, Maureen Feeney and Diane Modica (newly elected), the largest number of women in the Council's history.
- Prostate cancer education and referral services given \$35,000
- \$6 million given towards Lead –based paint hazard control
- Substance abuse counseling is given \$105,000
- Charlestown navy yard urban renewal project given \$4.13 million

1995

- Drug free zones are created
- Gay straight youth pride month declared
- Grant given to D.A.R.E program
- Cops in shops program given \$5,000
- Funds given to youth violence strike force
- Community development block grant for \$271,990,000
- HIV/AIDS prevention program is given \$125,000
- Substance abuse relapse prevention program is supported with \$125,000

1996

- In September 1996, the City Council began broadcasting its meetings and hearings on Cable access.
- Financed Boston Alzheimer's center
- Limited tobacco access to youth
- Funding for prostate cancer education
- Merger of Boston City Hospital and Boston University Medical Center Hospital

1997

- Passing act relative to the annual cost of living adjustments for retirees
- Passing of act to permit regulation of garbage collection
- Act passes that provides breast cancer patients protection
- Interdepartmental juvenile truancy citation system act
- Requiring crossing gates, bus monitors, and seat belts on school buses
- Prohibition of aggressive solicitation

1998

- Collective bargaining settlement of \$392,316 between school committee and bus monitors
- Senior citizens are given prescription coverage
- Defibrillators placed in public buildings
- Adult basic education given \$70,000
- City meals on wheels given \$150,000
- District E-5 youth/police programs
- Drug abuse prevention programs in public schools
- Dorchester safe neighborhood safe initiative area given \$45,950.26
- \$23,000 given to meet elders health information needs
- \$10,000 given to environmental awareness
- Revising jobs and living wage ordinance

1999

- Approved a petition for a special law entitled “An Act Amending the Act Providing for the Registration of Bicycle Messenger Services and Licensing of Commercial Messengers”
- Established cleanliness licenses
- Amended the Boston Fire Prevention Code concerning blasting regulations
- Ordinance regarding the sale, possession and use of laser pointers

2000-2009

2000

- Councillor Albert “Dapper” O’Neil, who had served as Councillor since 1971, when he replaced Louis Day Hicks, was succeeded in office by Michael F. Flaherty, Jr. as an at large City Councillor. Councillor Flaherty served until 2009, when he left office to run for Mayor.
- Ordinance regarding improper preparation of food
- Ordinance mandating crossing gates on school buses
- Amended the Boston Fire Prevention Code Concerning Blasting Regulations
- Ordinance trespassing on private property
- Ordinance relating to the registration of dogs and further regulating dangerous dogs
- Banned the sale of mercury thermometers

2001

- Councillor Charles Yancey, District 4, was elected as the second African American Council President. He was first elected to Council in 1983. He served one year as President.
- Yellow safety strips placed in subways
- Sanitary code violation billing procedures are made
- An ordinance establishing “Task Force for Implementation” to ensure compliance of Chapter 40 Section F and promote the purchase of apparel by cities from manufacturers that pay their employees a prevailing wage
- Greenbush rail restoration
- Amended the Boston Jobs and Living Wage ordinance
- Sale, use, and possession of fireworks prohibited
- Expanded hours of operation on MBTA supported

2002

- Councillor Brian Honan, District 9, passed away while running for Suffolk County District Attorney. Jerry McDermott was elected in a special election.
- Councillor Daniel F. Conley, District 5, after winning the District Attorney race, was succeeded in office by Rob Consalvo.
- Order approving an Agricultural Preservation Restriction on Allandale Farm in Jamaica Plain
- The Aberdeen section of Brighton is designated as an Architectural Conservation District
- Resolution urging the Administration to monitor the indoor air quality conditions in public buildings.
- Recycling program established for residential buildings
- Ordinance established giving Boston residents preference in housing programs
- Ordinance mandating impoundment of vehicles for a minimum of 12 hours following a DUI arrest

2003

- City Councillor and former Police Commissioner Francis M. Roache resigned from office to become the Suffolk County Register of Probate, elevating Felix D. Arroyo, the first Hispanic American – the fifth place finisher in the last Council election to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.
- Resolution calling upon the U.S. Congress to respect the authority of state and local elected officials to protect their constituents from predatory home loans.
- Order “Prohibiting Skateboarding on Certain Public Property” passed
- Amending an ordinance establishing a fee for parking in an area designated as “No Stopping/No Standing”
- Resolution in support of efforts to keep the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology open
- Ordinance prohibiting the sale and/or installation of a muffler Cut-Out or By-Pass and prohibiting certain modifications to exhaust systems, from the Committee on Government Operations.
- Ordinance requiring implementation and maintenance of a system to retain all shopping carts within a business establishment.

2004

- Felix D. Arroyo, the first Hispanic American Boston City Councillor, began his first or two terms as Councillor. He served as Education Advisor to Former Mayor Ray Flynn and was President, Vice President and a member of the Boston School Committee in both an elected and appointed capacity.
- Ordinance prohibiting the use of gas powered scooters on public and private ways.
- Ordinance regarding the impoundment of vehicles involved in solicitation/prostitution
- Resolution strongly urging the School Department and School Committee to install a global positioning system on the entire fleet public School buses.
- Ordinance promoting responsible pit-bull ownership

2005

- In the spring, City Council began webcasting Council meetings and hearings on the City of Boston web page.
- Ordinance regarding the use of false identification to obtain alcoholic beverages
- Ordinance regulating after-hours parties
- Modified regulations surrounding street performances
- Ordinance mandating protective custody for intoxicated persons

2006

- Councillor Sam H. Yoon, the first Asian American to run for a Boston elected office, was sworn in as a member of the City Council. HE would serve for two terms before running for Mayor in 2009.
- Ordinance passed regarding Local Adoption of the Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Abatement.
- Ordinance passed amending chapter 18-1.19 (S) (12) of the CBC-Ordinances, establishing the Boston Fire Department fee structure for the inspection of smoke and carbon monoxide systems.
- Order passed to Amend An Act Relative to Weapons in the City of Boston
- Order passed authorizing the City's application to the Massachusetts Economic Assistance Coordinating Council for designation of the Columbus Center Project site as an Economic Opportunity Area.
- Order passed accepting provisions of Sections 1 and 2 of Chapter 157 of the Acts of 2005, re: Accidental Disability Benefits for Retirees.
- Amendment of ordinance passed regarding unregistered motor vehicles

2007

- Councillor Maureen E. Feeney, District 3, was elected as the second female President of the City Council. She served as President for two years.
- Councillor James M. Kelly, the longest serving Council President, passed away in January, after serving as a councillor since 1983. Bill Linehan was elected to succeed him as the District 2 councillor.
- City Council Rules were amended to provide term limits on Council Presidents of two years. After a year off, an individual may serve again as President.
- Order passed approving a petition for a special law re: Licenses Regarding Alcoholic Beverages, from the table.
- Order passed approving a petition for a special law re: third-party training and background checks for violent history for security staff at bars and clubs in the City
- Order passed authorizing the creation of a stabilization fund under MGL Chapter 40, 5b for other post employment benefits (OPEB).
- Passed enabling legislation to establish The Homeowner's Residential Tax Exemption
- Home Rule Petition for a special law re: possession of a firearm in place of residence or at a place of business without a license in the City, from the Committee on Government Operations
- Ordinance amending CBC 12-3.5, the Senior Citizen Property tax work off abatement
- Home Rule Petition modifying regulations regarding Smoke Detectors in the City of Boston
- Home Rule Petition passed increasing the civil penalties imposed for soliciting for a prostitute in the City of Boston
- Passed legislation modifying the maximum age restriction for Police Officers
- Passed legislation modifying the minimum number of signatures needed for nomination petitions for City Council candidates
- Ordinance passed regarding prohibiting the sales and/or possession of crack pipes
- Ordinance passed amending CBC Ordinances in order to regulate the use of "pedicabs" and to prohibit the use of "party bikes" within the City

2008

- Home Rule petition passed regarding the preparation of certain ballots in the City of Boston
- An Act relative to criminal street gang tagging and graffiti
- Ordinance regulating public donation collection bins
- Ordinance passed regulating the maintenance of abandoned, foreclosing residential properties
- Established requirements for the cleaning of commercial cooking hood and ventilation systems
- Ordinance regarding the licensure of dogs and prohibition of dog renting. The state followed suit shortly afterwards.
- Ordinance prohibiting ice cream trucks from playing music while stationary.
- Passed legislation establishing the City of Boston Minority and Women Business Enterprise Initiative
- Passed enabling legislation to allow the Washington Beech Housing Project to undergo redevelopment
- Ordinance prohibiting the carrying of machetes
- Home Rule Petition regulating evictions on certain foreclosed residential property in the City of Boston
- Banned the possession of armor-piercing ammunition
- An Ordinance amending CBC 18-1.8 (4) allowing for update to the fee structure charged for rental use of Faneuil Hall

2009

- Due to two at large city councillors running for mayor, there were two openings in the at large seats for City Council. Boston elected its second Hispanic American City Councillor – Felix G. Arroyo and its first woman at large city Councillor Ayanna Pressley.
- City Council began posting all legislation on the Council's web page.
- Ordinance requiring City Councilors to file statements of financial interests
- Ordinance prohibiting sale and possession of Salvia Divinorum
- Ordinance regulating the noise level of motorcycles
- Ordinance increasing University Accountability
- A Moratorium on Foreclosures
- Ordinance Requiring the Non-Criminal Disposition of Sign Violations
- Passed Home-Rule Petition banning texting while driving in City of Boston